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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/771,265	02/03/2004	Tommie L. Rogers	8491-56070	2326
29148	7590	02/22/2006	EXAMINER	
ONEBANE LAW FIRM 1200 CAMELLIA BLVD., SUITE 300 LAFAYETTE, LA 70508-6667			MCDONALD, SHANTESE L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3723	

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/771,265	ROGERS, TOMMIE L.
	Examiner Shantese L. McDonald	Art Unit 3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5,6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3,5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahlston in view of admitted prior art.

Ahlstone teaches a tong assembly comprising a power tong, 12, a backup assembly, 40, coupled to the power tong, the backup assembly comprising a pair of rotatable jaws, 60, each having a tong die, 70' comprising a base portion adapted to be received in the backup jaw and fixed in place therein, and a gripping surface which is non-symmetric about a center line through and normal to the base portion, and the non-symmetrical shape being a parabola. Ahlstone also teaches that the gripping surface portion, in profile view, comprises a segment of the arc of a circle and a center of the circle is displaced from the centerline in a direction away from the point of rotation of the backup jaw, and the gripping surface portion comprises a toothed surface, 70', (fig. 5).

Ahlstone teaches all the limitations of the claims except for the toothed surface extending over substantially the entirety of the gripping surface. The Applicants admitted prior art fig. 3, shows a tong die with a toothed surface extending over substantially the entirety. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to provide the tong die of Ahlstone with a toothed entire surface, as taught by the prior art, since Ahlstone teaches that the die is toothed, but based upon the fig, it is not obvious as to whether the entire surface is toothed, and the prior art teaches that having a die with the entire surface toothed is old and well known.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/3/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that the Ahlstone reference teaches inserts for gripping smaller tubular, and not wider tubular, as taught by the present invention. The limitation of the size of tubular is not claimed. The Applicant assumes since the toothed portion of Ahlstone's tong die 70', is located only partially on the gripping surface, that it is therefore only for gripping smaller dies. The Examiner disagrees, and feels that the specification of Ahlstone is silent as to whether the teeth of die 70' extend across the entire gripping surface. The surface as depicted in fig. 5, could actually have teeth decreasing in size across the entire surface, which could not be detailed in the figure.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shantese L. McDonald whose telephone number is (571) 272-4486. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

S.L.M.
February 14, 2006



Joseph J. Hail, III
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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